

In the specification:

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 as follows:

In keeping with these objects and with others which will become apparent hereinafter, one feature of the present invention resides, briefly stated, in a washer, comprising a body having at least one inner segment arranged to cooperate with a fastener which has a rod with one end connectable toward one side of an object to be tightened or loosened and another end to extend to another side of the object and having ~~and~~ at least one thread portion for engagement by a nut, said body being arranged to enhance a cooperation between said at least one inner segment and said another end of the rod underneath said at least one thread portion to create a friction between said at least one inner segment and said another end of the rod, said body having an axis and being provided with a first outer surface located at one axial side and adapted to cooperate with the nut threadingly connected with the rod on said another end, with a second outer surface located at an opposite axial side and adapted to cooperate with the object, and with at least one inner surface adapted to cooperate with said at least one inner segment, so that when a tool is applied and the nut is turned by the tool to overcome a thread

friction with the rod, and the rod wants to turn along while a holding force holds said body stationary, said at least one inner segment stops the rod from turning so that any further turning of the nut elongates or relaxes the rod in an axial direction to tighten or loosen the rod by elongating or relaxing the rod.

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 as follows:

It is another feature of the present invention to provide a fastener which has a rod having one end to be connectable toward one side of an object to be tightened or loosened and another end extendable to another ~~end~~side of the object and having at least one thread portion; a nut engaging said at least one thread portion of said rod; and a washer including a body having at least one inner segment arranged to cooperate with said rod, said body being arranged to enhance a cooperation between said at least one inner segment and said another end of the rod underneath said at least one thread portion to create a friction between said at least one inner segment and said another end of the rod, said body having an axis and being provided with a first outer surface located at one axial side and adapted to cooperate with the nut threadingly connected with the rod on said another end, with a second outer surface located at

an opposite axial side and adapted to cooperate with the object, and with at least one inner surface adapted to cooperate with said at least one inner segment, so that when a tool is applied and the nut is turned by the tool to overcome a thread friction with the rod and the rod wants to turn along while a holding force holds said body stationary, said at least one inner segment stops the rod from turning so that any further turning of the nut elongates or relaxes the rod in an axial direction to tighten or loosen the rod by elongating or relaxing the rod.

Page 10, between lines 12 and 13, insert the following paragraph:

Industries will keep the inventive washer in stock same as they keep bolts and nuts in stock. There are industries that only use threaded rods. For those industries the at least one segment is also threaded to engage a threaded portion underneath the nut. There are also industries that use both threaded rods with just a threaded portion for engagement by the nut and are otherwise round. For those industries, the washer in accordance with the present invention is adjustable to the particular rod to which it is applied, so as to reduce inventory for customers. As explained in the preceding paragraph the at least one segment is replaceable, so that a segment formed for a thread

engagement underneath the threaded portion for the nut is replaceable with at least one segment formed for a round bar engagement or in other words for a non-threaded portion underneath of the nut. There are also industries that use only rods with just a threaded portion for engagement by the nut and are otherwise round. For those industries the at least one segment is adapted to the round portion of the rod. Depending on the applications, the cost of rod, and the maintenance intervals, the at least one segment can be just round, or formed to bite into the round portion of the rod underneath the thread portion for the nut, so as to stop the rod from turning along with the nut.

Page 29, last paragraph in lines 16-19- amend as follows:

In general, all embodiments shown in the above mentioned figures and described herein above can be used so that the segments cooperate with ~~the threaded portion of the rod or with the non-threaded a~~ non-threaded portion of the rod underneath the nut-engaging portion or with threads underneath the nut-engaging portion of the rod.